Guide to the Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary Mardi Gras Programs Collection MS 259

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Ho
Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.
San Diego History Center Document Collection
1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego, CA, 92101
619-232-6203
June 16, 2011
Title: Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary Mardi Gras Programs Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS 259
Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.75 Linear feet (4 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1956-1983
Abstract: The Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary held an annual Mardi Gras Ball, from the late 1940s to 1983, to benefit Camp Oliver in Descanso, California. This collection consists of programs from the Mardi Gras Ball.
creator: Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary.
Processing Information
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Preferred Citation
Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary Mardi Gras Programs Collection, MS 259, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Some programs have loose or detached pages. (June 15, 2011)
Arrangement
The items are arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of event programs from the Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary Mardi Gras Balls from 1956 through its conclusion in 1983 (programs from 1957, 1965, 1968 are not included in collection). The programs are comprised primarily of advertisements from local businesses, many of whom integrated the event’s theme and members into the advertisements. Beginning pages of the programs contain features such as group photos of that year’s court as well as past years’ courts, names and photos of the event committee members, acknowledgements, lists of club members, Executive Board members, event patrons and contributors to the event, and the evening’s schedule. Through 1959, the programs also contained blank calendar pages. There are also items that were inserted in the annual programs such as bookmark and pencil advertisements, a Camp Oliver brochure from 1966, and loose printed images of the annual Mardi Gras’ courts.
Biographical / Historical Notes
The Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary was a women’s group in San Diego, founded to assist the Sisters of Social Service. Members regularly volunteered at the Bayside Social Center, a settlement house in San Diego, and organized the annual Mardi Gras Ball, raising funds for Camp Oliver in Descanso. According to a 1966 brochure, Camp Oliver offered an environment where girls could grow “spiritually, physically, socially in the Christian atmosphere of the camp.” Camp Oliver was run by the Sisters of Social Service, and all proceeds from the annual Mardi Gras Balls went to the Camp Oliver Fund. The Mardi Gras Ball was a major annual event. The Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary began planning for the ball every spring. Each member was responsible for finding advertisers for the program, attending work meetings and giving talks to the community about Camp Oliver. The Ball had a different theme each year, with sponsors incorporating the theme into their advertisements in the annual program. All decorations at the Ball were created by the members. An appropriately-dressed court presided over each Ball. Men served as court escorts, ushers, jesters and “masquers.” The Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary held this annual event until 1983.
Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Accession number 840426A.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Camp Oliver.
Juniors of the Social Service Auxiliary.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>Pictoral Paradise - program; &quot;Carnival in Rio,&quot; Ninth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1956</td>
<td>January 14</td>
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<td>1:4</td>
<td>Mardi Gras Safari 1960 - program; &quot;Mardi Gras Safari,&quot; Thirteenth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1960</td>
<td>February 27</td>
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<td>1:5</td>
<td>Program; “Mardi Gras Vanities” Fourteenth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1961</td>
<td>January 21</td>
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<td>1:9</td>
<td>Mardi Gras presents Kaleidoscope 1966 - program; Nineteenth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1966</td>
<td>February 19</td>
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<td>Camp Oliver brochure insert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Twentieth Annual Mardi Gras Ball Mardi Gras presents the Gilded Nineties - program, 1967</td>
<td>January 14</td>
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<td>Insert of printed photo of court.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Box-folder 2:1  OLE! - program; Twenty-second Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1969 January 18
Box-folder 2:2  Mardi Gras - program; “Decadally 7,” Twenty-third Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1970 February 7
Box-folder 2:3  Romanesque - program; “Mardi Gras Romanesque,” Twenty-fourth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1971 February 20
  Includes:
  Insert of printed photo of court.
  Bookmark advertisement insert.
Box-folder 2:4  25th Mardi Gras Ball - program; “Mardi Gras Reflections,” Twenty-fifth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1972 March 4
  Includes:
  Insert of printed photo of court.
Box-folder 2:6  Program; “Rio Carnival,” Twenty-seventh Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1974 February 23
  Includes:
  Bookmark advertisement insert.
  Insert of printed photo of court and list of court members.
Box-folder 2:7  Kan-Gei (Welcome) - program; “Mardi Gras - Shangri La,” Twenty-eighth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1975 January 25
  Includes:
  Bookmark advertisement insert.
  Insert of printed photo of court.
Box-folder 3:1  Program; “Star Spangled Mardi Gras Ball,” Twenty-ninth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1976
  Includes:
  Insert of printed photo of court.
Box-folder 3:2  Pearl of the Sea - program; Thirtieth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1977 March 12
Box-folder 3:3  Program; “Mardi Gras Does Dixie,” Thirty-first Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1978 March 4
  Includes:
  Insert of printed photo of court.
Box-folder 3:4  Program; “Mardi Gras Karneval,” Thirty-second Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1979 February 10
  Includes:
  Insert of printed photo of court.
Box-folder 3:5  Program; “A Circus Fantasy,” Thirty-third Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1980 March 8
  Includes:
  Bookmark advertisement insert.
Box-folder 4:2  Program; “Royal Hawaiian Mardi Gras,” Thirty-fifth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1982 March 20
  Includes:
  Inserts of printed photos of court.
Box-folder 4:3  Program; “Mardi Gras Ole,” Thirty-sixth Annual Mardi Gras Ball, 1983 March 5